



FSH Weekly Safety Notes

26 July 2005

Safety info for the week: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

On 24 July 2005, a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle on FSH. The driver of the vehicle was cited for failing to stop at a STOP sign. Drivers must ensure all traffic signs and lights are being adhered to. Pedestrians must also ensure they make eye contact with drivers before crossing into the path of vehicle. The following facts are provided by the National Safety Council.

Approximately 5,900 pedestrians are killed by automobiles every year... 84,000 suffer nonfatal injuries. Almost one-third of these victims are children under the age of 15 yet they represent only about 15% of the U.S. population.

By following the few safety tips listed below, you can protect yourself and your children.

1. **Walk on sidewalks.** If sidewalks are not available, walk on the edge of the road or on the left shoulder of the road, facing the traffic flow.
2. **Cross at marked crosswalks or intersections.** Pedestrians are most often hit by cars when they cross the road at places other than intersections.
3. **Look left, right, and left for traffic.** Stop at the curb and look left, right, and left again for traffic. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross. Always obey traffic signals.
4. **See and be seen.** Drivers need to see you to avoid you.
 - o Stay out of the driver's blind spot.
 - o Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets.
 - o Wear bright colors or reflective clothing if you are walking near traffic at night.
 - o Carry a flashlight when walking in the dark.
 - o Do not let kids play near traffic or cross the street by themselves.
 - o In bad weather, take care that your umbrella or raincoat does not prevent approaching vehicles from seeing you.
5. **Watch your kids.** Small children should not cross streets by themselves or be allowed to play or walk near traffic. Kids cannot accurately judge vehicle distances or speeds and may make unpredictable movements.
6. **Drinking and walking?** Alcohol can impair the judgment and motor skills of pedestrians just as it does for drivers. Don't take alcohol risks with walking, just as you would not with driving. Take the bus, take a cab, or have a friend drive you home. Beware of the effects of prescription and non-prescription medications and drugs, too.
7. **Obey traffic signals.** At intersections where traffic is controlled by signals or a traffic officer, pedestrians must obey the signal and not cross against the stop signal unless specifically directed to go by a traffic officer.

"Clear vision = no collision!"

Safety Helpline 295 –Safe (7233)